

Welcome to Western Edge Premier - FTC Competition

WELCOME TEAMS! We are thrilled to have you part of the **2026 Western Edge Premier - FTC Competition!** Congratulations on advancing from your Regional Championships and selecting Long Beach for your Premier Event! We are so proud of your accomplishments and look forward to your participation. Below is additional information to help you to prepare:

Deadlines

- **April 3** - last day to pay your **\$2000 registration fee** **You may pay online via PayPal** <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/califssouthernrobotic> , **Zelle** send to socalflrbotics@gmail.com **or check** Payable to: **FIRST CA Robotics, 699 N. Vulcan Ave Spc #4**
- **May 27th, Wednesday - Engineering Portfolio** uploaded no later than 8pm [here](#). Please bring a hard copy of the Portfolio to be kept at your pit area for judge reference.
- **May 29-30-31** – Competition Days!!!

General Information / Overall Event

We will be running a 88-team Two-Division tournament with four competition fields. A team will be assigned to one of the two divisions and play 10 matches, moving from one field to the other within the Division. The Winning Captain and Partner team from each of the two Divisions will have a playoff to determine overall Event Champion. Check-in Thursday, practices and competitions Friday and Saturday, Division playoff Sunday and awards ceremony.

Parking

Convention Center Parking is available. The venue is Cashless. For teams planning to stay further away and drive in each day, please note that parking at the Convention Center is approximately \$40 per day.

Load in and Drop Off: An unloading/loading zone will be located by Exhibit Hall C (please see map at the end of the document)

Team Check in

Check-in is Thursday, May 28, 4:00pm-8:00pm.

Bring to check-in:

1. **FTC Consent form/ Permission slips** for each team member and mentor, printed from the Mentor's FIRST Dashboard. www.firstinspires.org
2. **Upload your Engineering Portfolio:** Judges will do an on-line review of engineering notebooks. You will need to upload your 15-page Engineering Portfolio (with cover page = 16 pages) before the event. Upload portfolios here: <https://ftc-scoring.firstinspires.org/>.
3. **Safety glasses for your team** (Have them out and ready before entering the pit area) If you are in the pit or competition areas, safety glasses are required. Prescription glasses must have ANSI certified side shields or safety glasses over them. Please have them for your visitors as well or ask them to bring their own if they plan to see you in the pit.

4. Please wear closed-toe shoes.

Robot Inspection

Robot Inspections are Thursday, May 28, 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Robots must pass inspection to compete and be assigned qualification match times. A copy of the Inspection Checklist that will be used can be downloaded here: [Inspection Checklist](#). Please review this document prior to coming to the event to ensure that your inspection process goes smoothly.

Pit

Pit opens Thursday, May 28, 4:00pm-8:00pm.

The event venue will provide each team with a 10 x10 pit area and one power outlet and a 6 foot table (72-inch width, 30-inch depth, 29-inch height). Note - The power outlet could be 10 ft away, teams need to bring extension cord and additional plugs

The pit is your team's home base. It's a space to showcase your hard work, connect with other teams, and meet with judges. Here's what you need to know to keep things running smoothly for everyone:

What the Pit is For:

- Storing props and materials used in judging sessions
- Repairing and working on your robot
- Connecting with other teams and judges
- Showing off what your team has accomplished!

A Few Simple Rules:

- Keep aisles and the perimeter clear. No chairs, bags, or materials outside your designated space.
- No food in the pits please.
- No cooking equipment — that means coffee makers, hot water pots, and similar appliances.
- Teammates not actively working should cheer from the stands and keep the pit area focused and functional.

Giveaways & Trading: We love team spirit! We recommend trading pins, buttons, or wristbands. Items that are intended to be thrown or bounced are not allowed in the pit area. *No balloons please.*

Practice Matches

Practice Matches will be played on Friday, May 29, 9:45am - 11:30am. (After opening ceremonies). Teams will be assigned to play in one practice match. Teams that have passed inspection may sign up to play additional practice matches on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Awards

Performance Awards will be given for each Division for the following: Division Winning Alliance (Captain and Partner), Finalist Division Alliance (Captain and Partner)

Judges will evaluate teams within each Division for the standard FTC Awards: Inspire, Think, Connect, Reach, Sustain, Design, Innovate presented by RTX, Control, and the Judge's Choice Award. The number of recognitions will follow **A211** in the Competition Manual See section 6.3 in the Competition Manual for a description and the criteria for each of the judged awards.

There will also be an overall Event Winning Alliance (Captain and Partner) and an Event Inspire 1st Place.

Think Award - online submission

Several awards are dependent on an Engineering Portfolio being submitted. For Western Edge, we will collect portfolios over the internet and not hard copies. Each team must submit their Engineering Portfolio online, through the FIRST scoring system software system. This will enable Judges to view all portfolios from their laptops before the event begins and during the event, cutting down on paperwork.

Upload portfolios here: <https://ftc-scoring.firstinspires.org/>. Mentors must login with their FIRST password, click on judging, click upload document. If you want to revise your Portfolio once it's uploaded, click 'upload new revision'.

The deadline to upload is May 27, Wednesday, 8pm.

Structured Judge Interviews

Judging interviews are 3:30pm- 5:30pm on Friday, May 29.

Each team will receive a **pre-assigned 10 minute interview** by the judge panel for the team to explain their robot design, team dynamics, or anything else the team would like to share to help judges evaluate their journey. All of your team members are welcome to attend the judging interview, just remember the time is 10 minutes; manage your time appropriately. A team can, but is not required to, have up to a 5-minute rehearsed presentation to share with the judges. This would be part of your 10-minute interview; the remaining 5 minutes would be for the judges to ask questions. If you do not want to give a practiced presentation, the judges will ask questions during the 10 minutes as they have in the past. One mentor or coach may accompany the team at the judging interviews, but only to view the process, not to interact. See section 6.1.2 in the Competition Manual for more details on the Structured Interview.

Judging times will be posted on the website one week before your event. <https://ftc-scoring.firstinspires.org/> The interview rooms are in a different part of the facility and require a 5 minute walk and there will be stairs or an elevator in your path, so plan accordingly for getting your robot and any presentation material to the judging room. Your team will be escorted by a volunteer so you don't get lost.

Judge Pit Interviews

On Saturday, during qualification matches, Judges will be walking through the pits to have additional conversations with teams on robot design, performance, and team attributes. This is where teams will answer the judges' questions in depth. It is strongly recommended to have a team member at your table in the pits at all times who can answer questions. See section 6.1.3 in the Competition Manual for more details on the Pit Interview(s).

Overall Schedule

Thursday, May 28

4:00pm - 8:00pm Team check-in, pit set up and robot Inspection

Friday, May 29 Region / Team Dress Day Theme

7:00am - 10:00am Pits Open, outstanding robot inspections from Thursday, Practice Matches open

8:00am - 8:45am Drivers Meeting

9:00am - 10:00am Opening Ceremonies

12:30pm- 3:15pm Qualification Matches Begin

3:30pm - 5:30pm Structured Judge Interviews (15 minutes per team)

8:00pm Pits Close

8:00pm - 9:30pm Dance Party

Saturday, May 30 / Spy Saturday Theme

7:00am Pits open

8:00am Judge Pit Interviews with Teams Begin; Qualification Matches begin

5:30pm Alliance selection

9:00pm Pit closes

Sunday, May 31 Rock Paper Scissor Challenge Day

8:00am Pits Open

9:00am Division Playoffs Begin

12:00pm - 12:30pm Division Award Ceremony

12:30pm - 1:00pm Event Finals

1:15pm - 2:00pm Event Awards Ceremonies and Closing

2:00pm - 4:00pm Team Load Out

Venue Layouts



